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PTQ5082

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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ACTION DS-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CA-01	CEA-01
	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	DOTE-00	WHA-00	PERC-00	SRPP-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EXIM-01
	E-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	ITC-01	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OCS-03	OES-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	ASDS-01	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/016W			

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O 132254Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5474
INFO OPEC COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 001000

NSC FOR AMB MAISTO
USCINCSO FOR POLAD

DEPT CA FOR MARY A. RYAN

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DEPT ALSO FOR DS/OP/WHA AND S/ES-ODS/OP/CC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/12/16

TAGS: ECON, PGOV, PREL, EPET, ASEC, CASC VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELA'S GENERAL STRIKE AS OF 7:00 PM
APRIL 13

REF: A. CARACAS 00998 B. 996 C. 984 D. 980 E.00974 F. 00973 G.
00966, H. 00948

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. SHAPIRO. REASON
1.5 (B) AND (D).

ARMY GIVES CONDITIONAL SUPPORT TO CARMONA GOVT
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ALAN H FLANIGAN
DATE/CASE ID: 12 JUN 2007 200504156

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1. (U) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON, GENERAL OF THE ARMY EFRAIN VASQUEZ INSISTED THAT THE MILITARY DID NOT CONDUCT A COUP, BUT IS SIMPLY PROVIDING ITS SUPPORT TO A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, HE DECLARED THAT MISTAKES WERE MADE IN THE TRANSITION PROCESS, AND ANNOUNCED THAT MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WILL DEPEND UPON THE REINSTITUTION OF "PUBLIC POWERS." INCLUDED IN VASQUEZ'S CONDITIONS IS THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND RESPECT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES LEGALLY ELECTED BY THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE. HE ALSO DEMANDED RECOGNITION OF THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND AS CURRENTLY CONSTITUTED.

CARMONA SPEAKS

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2. (U) GENERAL VELASQUEZ'S ANNOUNCEMENT WAS FOLLOWED SOON AFTER BY AN INTERVIEW WITH CNN EN ESPANOL, WHEREIN PRESIDENT CARMONA MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY IS NORMAL.
- THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL RESPECT THE CONSTITUTION.
- HE WILL RECONVENE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
- THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL ELECT NEW PEOPLE TO THE "PUBLIC POWER" POSITIONS.
- HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE RESPECTED.
- HUGO CHAVEZ IS NOT PRISONER, BUT IS IN CUSTODY, AND WILL BE SENT FROM VENEZUELA. AT THIS TIME THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IS STILL LOOKING FOR COUNTRY THAT WILL ACCEPT CHAVEZ.
- WHEN ASKED TO CLARIFY HIS LOCATION, HE STATED THAT HE IS "AT A FORT" (PRESUMABLY FUERTE TIUNA) WITH THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE IS AT THE FORT, NOT FOR PROTECTION, BUT SIMPLY BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE THE MEETING IS BEING HELD.
- ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE PROBLEMS WITH THE MILITARY IN MARACAY, BUT THAT THEY WERE BEING ADDRESSED.

3. (C) COMMENT:

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THE MARACAY MILITARY BASE IS IN CARABOBO.

4. (C)

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DEMONSTRATORS TAKE MIRAFLORES

5. (U) THE PRESS REPORTS THAT PRO-CHAVEZ DEMONSTRATORS HAVE TAKEN OVER MIRAFLORES PALACE AND THAT INTERIM PRESIDENT CARMONA HAS MOVED TO FUERTE TIUNA. MILGROUP AND OTHER EMBOFFS REPORT THAT THE ATMOSPHERE ON THE BASE ITSELF IS VERY QUIET, THOUGH THERE IS AN INCREASED SECURITY POSTURE. MILGROUP OFFICERS WERE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE BASE AND MOVED FREELY. EMBOFFS REPORT DEMONSTRATIONS AT TWO OF THE ENTRANCES TO FUERTE TIUNA. THE FIRST DEMONSTRATION, AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE, CONSISTED OF APPROXIMATELY 200-300 PEOPLE. THE SECOND DEMONSTRATION WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 3000-4000 PEOPLE. THEY WERE BLOCKING THE FREEWAY AND BURNING VARIOUS OBJECTS. IN BOTH CASES, THE ABSENCE OF THE MEDIA WAS NOTEWORTHY.

6. (U) THERE ARE RADIO REPORTS THAT THE FORMER MINISTERS OF EDUCATION, LABOR, AND THE ENVIRONMENT HAVE CALLED ON CHAVEZ SUPPORTERS TO COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF THE CROWD GATHERED AT MIRAFLORES. EMBOFFS HAVE OBSERVED PEOPLE COMING OUT OF THE RANCHITOS ONTO THE AUTOPISTA AND MOVING TOWARDS MIRAFLORES.

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7. (C)

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